cards has been entrusted to a consultancy firm. Any action in this behalf shall be taken in receipt of the report of the feasibility study.

Repealing the Prisons Act, 1884

387. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prisons Act, 1884 has become redundant in view of the past experience after independence;

(b) whether there is a proposal before Government for repealing the century old Act;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what other measures Government propose to take to safeguard the interest of prisoners throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) Prison is a State subject under list II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Prison Law, therefore, falls within the exclusive legislative competence of the State Governments. The Central Government has, however, circulated the Model Prisons Bill among the States/ Union territories for their views.

In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to improve the condition of prisons and prisoners, the Central Government has been providing funds to the State Governments under the Scheme of the Modernisation of Prisons Administration.

Smuggling at Indo-Nepal Border

388. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether anti-national activities like smuggling of arms, drugs and fake currency notes have increased on Indo-Nepal borders;

(b) if so, whether the States concerned have not been able to check them;

(c) if so, whether there is a proposal for a special force on the lines of ITBP to be created; and

(d) if so, whether the ex-military men would be given preference in this force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Reports indicate that smuggling and Criminal syndicates with trans-border linkages are active on Indo-Nepal border. In order to check the activities of transborder smugglers, anti-national elements etc., the State Government of UP and West Bengal have created a special force. Concerned States have also strengthened vigilance on the border.

(c) An Action Plan has been prepared in consultation with the concerned States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim for strengthening of Policing and Intelligence collection along the Indo-Nepal border including deployment of a Central Police Organisation in vulnerable stretches of the border.

(d) Does not arise in view of answers to (c) above.

Militancy in Karbi Anglong and North Kachar District of Assam

389. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the nature of militant activities in Karbi Anglong and North Kachar district of Assam;

(b) how many militant organisations are active and the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to curb this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The nature of militant activities in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar districts of Assam is mainly to terrorize Non-Karbi population. Government are aware of the criminal activities including extortion, kidnapping, killing by militant outfits like United Peoples Democratic Solidarity (UPDS), Karbi National Volunteers (KNV), Karbi People Force (KPF), Dima Halam Daogah (DHD), National Socialist Council of Nagaland (I/M) (NSCN (IM)), etc. in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar districts of Assam. Government has taken various steps to bring the law and order situation in Assam under control. These include *inter-alia*, deployment of Para-military Forces and Army in the State, coordinated action by Army, Para-military Forces and State Police for counter insurgency operations. Regular review of the situation both at State and Central Government level is being made.

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